Docket No. AUS920040040US1

## CLAIMS:

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What is claimed is:

1. A method in a data processing system for generating return data responsive to a database request, the method comprising:

detecting a response from a data store;
responsive to detecting the response, locating a
merge reference section in a singleton in-memory object;

identifying a merge reference from the merge reference section;

determining a reference column from the merge reference;

merging data with the reference column to form a merged value according to an order; and placing the merged value in the response.

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting a response from the data store includes receiving a result from an adapter after execution of a query statement.
  - 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the singleton inmemory object is implemented as a configuration Java bean.
  - 4. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying a merge reference from the merge reference section includes determining whether an identifier of the merge reference matches a requested field from a plurality of requested fields in the response.

- 5. The method of claim 4, wherein merging data with the reference column to form the merged value according to the order includes combining a value of the requested field with a value of the reference column.
- 6. The method of claim 1, wherein determining a reference column from the merge reference includes locating the reference column from a plurality of columns in the data store according to a value element of the merge reference.
- 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the order is located in an order element of the merge reference.
- 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the merge reference section includes a plurality of merge references.
- 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the response is a message formatted using an extensible markup language x
- 10. A method in a data processing system for executing a request on a data store, the method comprising:

receiving a request containing data;

responsive to receiving the request, locating a split reference section in a singleton in-memory object;

identifying a split reference from the split reference section:

determining a reference column from the split reference;

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extracting a value from the data; and placing the value in the reference column according to an order.

- 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the singleton inmemory object is implemented as a configuration Java bean.
- 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the split reference section includes a plurality of split references.
- 13. The method of claim 10, wherein identifying the split reference includes determining whether an identifier of the split reference matches a requested field from a plurality of requested fields in the request.
- 14. The method of claim 10, wherein determining the reference column includes locating the column from a plurality of columns in the data store according to a value element of the split reference.

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- 15. The method of claim 10, wherein extracting a value includes determining whether a split length element exists.
- 16. The method of claim 15, wherein, responsive to determining the split length element exists, the value includes a number of characters of the data specified in the split length element.

- 17. The method of claim 15, wherein, responsive to determining the split length element does not exist, the value includes a number of characters of the data remaining.
- 18. The method of claim 10, wherein the order is located in an order element of the split reference.
- 19. The method of claim 10, wherein the request is an extensible markup language request message.
- 20. The method of claim 10, wherein determining a reference column further comprises determining a plurality of reference columns, and extracting the value further comprises extracting a plurality of values, wherein a first value of the plurality of values is placed in a first column of the plurality of columns, and a second value of the plurality of values is placed in a second column of the plurality of columns.
- 21. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for performing actions on a data store, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for detecting a response from a data store;

second instructions, responsive to detecting the response, for determining a reference column of a merge reference of a merge reference section of a singleton inmemory object; and

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third instructions for generating a response having a merged value obtained from merging data with the reference column.

- 22. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the singleton in-memory object is a Java bean.
- 23. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for executing a request on a data store, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for receiving a request containing data;

second instructions that locate a split reference section in a singleton in-memory object;

third instructions for determining a reference column of a split reference in the split reference section; and

fourth instructions that extract a value from the data and place the extracted value in the reference column....

24. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the singleton in-memory object is a Java bean.